

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 OES-07 /081 W  
-----074712 110330Z /12

R 101232Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5317  
INFO AMEMNSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IN, BG  
SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE: FARAKKA AND BANGLADESH  
REFUGEES

1. DURING THE RAJYA SABHA DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY  
AUGUST 9 (SEPTTEL), DEFENSE MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM  
REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHILE THE GOI WOULD APPROACH THE  
PROBLEM OF FARAKKA AS A NATIONAL ISSUE AND ENSURE  
THAT THE CALCUTTA PORT WAS NOT PUT IN JEOPARDY, AN  
AGREEMENT ON FARAKKA WOULD BE A TEST OF THE BILATERALISM  
"WE ARE PREACHING" AS PART OF POSITIVE NON-ALIGNMENT  
AND WOULD FURTHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS  
WITH ALL INDIA'S NEIGHBORS. "LET FARAKKA NOT STAND IN THE  
WAY OF OUR FRIENDSHIP," HE SAID. FRIENDSHIP WITH A  
NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WAS SURELY OF MORE VALUE THAN  
A "FEW CUSECS" ON THIS SIDE OR THAT SIDE. REJECTING  
OPPOSITION CRITICISM OF THE BDG, RAM SAID THAT IT WAS  
NONE OF INDIA'S BUSINESS TO COMMENT UPON THE INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS OF BANGLADESH AND THAT PRESIDENT ZIA HAD  
ASSURED THE GOI THAT BANGLADESH WANTED TO MAINTAIN  
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FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

2. RAM SAID THAT SINCE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH WATER FOR  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, SHARING THE  
SHORTAGE WOULD LEAD TO DISCONTENTMENT ON BOTH SIDES,  
BUT THAT EACH GOVERNMENT MUST EXPLAIN TO ITS PEOPLE  
WHY IT ACCEPTED LESS OF THE GANGES FLOW THAN IT NEEDED.

IN RAM'S VIEW, THIS TASK WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE BDG SINCE BEFORE FARAKKA BANGLADESH HAD RECEIVED 100 PERCENT OF THE FLOW. EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES WOULD STUDY VARIOUS PROPOSALS, INCLUDING THE INDIAN SUGGESTION OF THE GANGES-BRAHMAPUTRA LINK CANAL, AND CHOOSE THE "MOST COST-EFFECTIVE SCHEME." RAM ALSO SAID THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES THEMSELVES, WITHOUT THE HELP OF ANY THIRD PARTY.

3. DURING THE DEBATE, CONGRESS AND CPI MEMBERS AGAIN RAISED THE CHARGE THAT THE GOI HAD PUSHED BACK INTO BANGLADESH POLITICAL REFUGEES, SOME OF WHOM WERE LATER JAILED OR KILLED. FOREIGN MINISTER A.B. VAJPAYEE DENIED THE CHARGE AND REPEATED THAT IT WAS INDIA'S DUTY TO GIVE POLITICAL ASYLUM TO ANY WHO SOUGHT IT BUT THAT SUCH PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND LARGE NUMBERS COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO CAMP ON THE BORDERS. VAJPAYEE SAID THAT THE GOI HAD ALREADY INVESTIGATED THESE COMPLAINTS AND FOUND THEM FALSE BUT WAS WILLING TO EXAMINE THEM ANEW.

4. COMMENT: JAGJIVAN RAM'S REMARKS ARE THE FRANKEST YET MADE BY THE DESAI ADMINISTRATION REGARDING ITS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON FARAKKA AND TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE ADVERSE DOMESTIC REACTION.  
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RAM'S PLEA THAT AN AGREEMENT BASED ON MUTUAL SACRIFICE IS NECESSARY FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS, HOWEVER, IS UNLIKELY TO QUIET OPPOSITION POLITICIANS WHO ARE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT ZIA'S GOVERNMENT AND WHO MISS NO OPPORTUNITY TO ACCUSE THE GOI OF SELLING OUT INDIA'S INTERESTS TO BANGLADESH.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS, WATER DIVERSION, BOUNDARY RIVERS, FARAKKA BARRAGE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE11294  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** acc1305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1646877  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE: FARAKKA AND BANGLADESH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SREF, PBOR, IN, BG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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